



# **Aspen** *Environmental Group*

## **PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E – TRI-VALLEY 2002 CAPACITY INCREASE PROJECT**

**To:** Ken Lewis, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** February 26, 2004  
**Subject:** Erosion and Revegetation Monitoring Report #3, 1/23/04 – 2/22/04  
**CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM):** Anne Sweet

### **Summary of Activity:**

Weather included scattered storm events. The CPUC EM conducted pre- and post-storm event inspections as well as spot-checks. On December 19, PG&E took over inspection responsibilities from Essex. On January 29, the CPUC EM toured both Phase One and Phase Two alignments with the Buck Jones, PG&E Planner, to inspect all erosion controls and note any places, which need upgrades.

#### Phase One:

The major build activities of the Phase One section of the Tri-Valley Project are complete and the line was officially released to operations in July 2003. On November 5, PG&E notified CPUC/Aspen that they were in receipt of the final Phase One signoffs from the City of Pleasanton, Ruby Hills Homeowners Association, and Zone 7.

At the Transition Station, the seed, which was planted in the late spring of last year, has grown in some areas but shows little growth in others. One area of particular concern lies on a high slope area approaching the station pad. This area is upslope of a sensitive creek area and signs of some erosion are already evident. After inspections, PG&E reported that the area should be seeded in order to protect the station pad from further erosion (see Figure 1). A contractor has bid the work and seeding along the south and west sides of the slope are scheduled for completion by the end of this month.

On January 1, sinkholes, slumping, and compaction issues throughout the Phase One alignment were identified at vault locations and along the length of the New Vineyard road trench line. PG&E called Mueller Pipeliners (the original contractor) back to the site to restore the areas. At the vault locations Mueller removed wet soils, backfilled with dry fill, and compacted the area. During the tour on January 22, the EM observed that the land sinkage problems at all of the vault locations had been filled in and recontoured (see Figure 2).

Along the Zone 7 access road near the Vault 3 location, the highly sloped area continues to have very good growth and the water bars are holding. Areas along “Old” Vineyard Road including the Vault 15 location mentioned above were also inspected.

On January 29, New Vineyard Road was inspected; Mueller continues to due restoration work along the roadway as required by the City of Pleasanton.

#### Phase Two:

The Cayetano Substation and the 230 kV line were energized on Wednesday, December 3, at which time the Phase Two segment was officially released for operations. Alameda County has signed of on the landscape plans for the Cayetano Substation.

Restoration, including hydro-seeding and mulching, along the Phase Two right-of-way has been completed. During the January 29 tour, the CPUC EM and the PG&E Planner inspected the entire area surrounding the Station and found that drains extending from the site were flooded and held standing water. During the February 22 tour, the CPUC EM again inspected the area surrounding the Substation, and the two drains extending from the site remain flooded and hold standing water (see Figure 3). PG&E was contacted and gave information that the Station contractor Burns & McDonald is currently working on the drain remediation plan.

Previously neighbors surrounding the Substation had complained about the nighttime lighting of the site. PG&E responded by lessening the lighting. On February 22, the CPUC EM toured the site after nightfall at 6:40 pm to view the station lighting. All lights have been turned off on the station structures except for two 40 watt bulbs at the doorways to the switchgear building, with a remote switch for the yard lights. The arrangement does not cast appreciable light off-site.

Continuing along May School and Dagnino Roads the right-of-way appears sound and seed mixes have sprouted; however, the heavy rains have flooded sections over the alignment. East from Dagnino Road along the access road that follows the alignment to the Transition Station, the recent rains have promoted growth of the applied seed. Erosion Controls were holding well. At PG&E's request, HT Harvey and Associates (the surrounding mitigation area planner) had installed more jute netting and hay bales within the drainages under the access road (see Figure 4). The Transition Station area was inspected and looked good.

**Agency Personnel Contacts:** None.



**Figure 1** – Transition Station slope area pre-seed application, Phase One.



**Figure 2** –Repaired sinkage problems at Vault locations along New Vineyard Road, Phase One.



**Figure 3** – Flooded drainage at the Cayatano Substation, Phase Two.



**Figure 4** – Added erosion controls within drainage areas along the access road to the Transition Station, Phase Two.